Child Safeguarding – Risk Assessment Statement 2024-2025

Ursuline College Sligo

Child Safeguarding Risk Assessment
2024-2025

Written Assessment of Risk of Ursuline College Sligo

In accordance with section 11 of the Children First Act 2015 and with the requirements of Chapter 8 of the *Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools 2017*, the following is the Written Risk Assessment of Ursuline College Sligo

1. **List of school activities**

   - Daily arrival and dismissal of pupils
   - Recreation breaks for pupils
   - Classroom teaching
   - One-to-one teaching
   - One-to-one learning support
   - One-to-one counselling
   - One-to-one supervision or teaching for orals/house exams/state exams or with Language Assistants
   - Outdoor teaching activities
   - Online teaching and learning remotely
   - Sporting Activities
   - School outings
   - School trips involving overnight stay
   - School trips involving foreign travel
   - Use of toilet/changing/shower areas in schools
   - Annual Sports Day
   - Fundraising events involving pupils
   - Use of off-site facilities for school activities
   - School transport arrangements including use of bus escorts
   - Care of children with additional educational needs including EAL students
   - Use of the Sensory room
   - Management of challenging behaviour amongst pupils
   - Management of provision of food and drink
   - Administration of Medicine (provided by parents for their child)
   - Administration of First Aid
   - Curricular provision in respect of SPHE, RSE
   - Prevention and dealing with bullying amongst pupils
   - Training of school personnel in child protection matters
   - Use of external personnel to supplement curriculum
   - Use of external personnel to support sports and other extra-curricular activities

- Care of pupils with specific vulnerabilities/ needs such as
  - Pupils from ethnic minorities/migrants/refugees/asylum seekers
  - Members of the Traveller community
  - Lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender (LGBT) children
  - Pupils perceived to be LGBT
  - Pupils of minority religious faiths
  - Children in care
  - Children with medical needs
- Recruitment of school personnel including -
  - Teachers/SNA's
  - Caretaker/Secretary/Cleaners
  - Sports coaches
  - External Tutors/Guest Speakers
  - Volunteers/Parents in school activities
  - Visitors/contractors present in school during school hours
  - Visitors/contractors present during after school activities
- Participation by pupils in religious ceremonies/religious instruction external to the school
- Use of Information and Communication Technology by pupils in school, including social media
- Application of sanctions under the school's Code of Behaviour including detention of pupils, confiscation of phones etc.
- Increased use of ICT by pupils and teachers for Teaching & Learning
- Deliveries and collections to and from school during the school day
- Students participating in work experience in the school
- Students from the school participating in work experience elsewhere
- Student teachers undertaking training placement in school
- Use of video/photography/other media to record school events
- After school use of school premises by other organisations
- Use of school premises by other organisation during school day
- Evening Study
- Early arrival to school

2. **The school has identified the following risk of harm in respect of its activities**

- Risk of harm not being recognised by school personnel
- Risk of harm not being reported properly and promptly by school personnel
- Risk of child being harmed in the school by a member of school personnel
- Risk of child being harmed in the school by another child
- Risk of child being harmed in the school by volunteer or visitor to the school
- Risk of child being harmed by a member of school personnel, a member of staff of another organisation or other person while child participating in out of school activities e.g. school trip, swimming lessons
- Risk of harm due to inappropriate use of online remote teaching and learning communication platform such as an uninvited person accessing the lesson link, students being left unsupervised for long periods of time in breakout rooms
- Risk of harm due to bullying of child
- Risk of harm due to racism
- Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision of children in school
- Risk of harm due to inadequate supervision of children while attending out of school activities
- Risk of harm due to inappropriate relationship/communications between child and another child or adult
- Risk of harm due to children inappropriately accessing/using computers, social media, phones and other devices while at school
- Risk of harm due to extended use of digital devices in class and online
- Risk of harm to children with SEN who have particular vulnerabilities, including medical vulnerabilities
- Risk of harm due to inadequate Code of Behaviour
- Risk of harm in one-to-one teaching, counselling, coaching situation
- Risk of harm caused by member of school personnel communicating with pupils in an inappropriate manner via social media, texting, digital device or other manner
- Risk of harm caused by member of school personnel accessing/circulating inappropriate material via social media, texting, digital device or other manner
- Risk of harm due to non-school personnel accessing the school grounds and buildings
- Risk of deliveries to the school while students are present
- There are a large number of unlocked doors into the school during school time

3. **The school has the following procedures in place to address the risks of harm identified in this assessment**

- All school personnel are provided with a copy of the school's *Child Safeguarding Statement*
- The *Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools 2017* are made available to all school personnel
- School Personnel are required to adhere to the *Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools 2017* and all registered teaching staff are required to adhere to the *Children First Act 2015* and it's Addendum (2019)
- All visitors to the school must sign in at the office and wear a "Visitor" lanyard
- The school implements in full the SPHE and RSE curricula
- The school implements in full the Wellbeing Programme at Junior Cycle
- The school has an Anti-Bullying Policy which fully adheres to the requirements of the Department's *Anti-Bullying Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools*
- The school undertakes anti-racism awareness initiatives
- The school has a corridor/grounds supervision policy to ensure appropriate supervision of students during arrival, dismissal and breaks and in respect of specific areas such as toilets, changing rooms etc.
- The school has in place a policy and clear procedures in respect of school outings
- The school has a Health and Safety Policy
- The school adheres to the requirements of the Garda vetting legislation and relevant DES circulars in relation to recruitment and Garda vetting
- The school has a codes of conduct for school personnel (teaching and non-teaching staff)
- The school complies with the agreed disciplinary procedures for teaching staff
- The school has an Additional Educational Needs policy
- The school –
  - Has provided each member of school staff with a copy of the school's Child Safeguarding Statement
  - Ensures all new staff are provided with a copy of the school's Child Safeguarding Statement
  - Encourages staff to avail of relevant training
  - Encourages Board of Management members to avail of relevant training
  - Maintains records of all staff training on Child Safeguarding
- The school has in place a Code of Behaviour for pupils
- The school has an Acceptable Use Policy in place, to include provision for online teaching and learning remotely, and has communicated this policy to parents
- The school has trained staff available for the administration of First Aid
- The school has in place a CCTV system and a CCTV Policy
- The school has in place a Critical Incident Management Plan
- The school has in place a policy and procedures in respect of pupils of the school undertaking work experience in external organisations
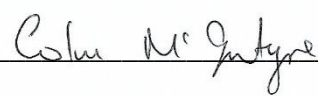
Important Note: It should be noted that risk in the context of this risk assessment is the risk of "harm" as defined in the Children First Act 2015and not general health and safety risk. The definition of harm is set out in Chapter 4 of the *Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools 2017*

In undertaking this risk assessment, the board of management has endeavoured to identify as far as possible the risks of harm that are relevant to this school and to ensure that adequate procedures are in place to manage all risks identified. While it is not possible to foresee and remove all risk of harm, the school has in place the procedures listed in this risk assessment to manage and reduce risk to the greatest possible extent.

Signed: _____

Chairperson of Board of Management

Signed: _____

Principal/Secretary to the Board of Management

Dated: 14th May 2024

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